

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 00729 031117Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 CPR-01 SSO-00 /033 W

----- 024975

O R 031045Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5490

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0729

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OCLR YO

SUBJ: CLEARANCE FOR PORT VISIT TO USS SARATOGA, USS SELLERS,
AND USS MILLER

REF: STATE 024954 DTG 010121Z FEB 76 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE TO PROCEED WITH SHIP VISIT OF SARATOGA PLUS ESCORTS TO SPLIT 26 FEB - 2 MAR RECEIVED MORNING 2 FEB. ALTHOUGH THIS CONCURRENCE WELCOME, TIMING PRESENTS US WITH REAL DILEMMA. WITH ONLY TWENTY-THREE DAYS TO GO BEFORE SCHEDULED VISIT, WE ARE SERIOUSLY BELOW YUGOSLAV LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR SHIP VISITS OF SIXTY DAY PRIOR NOTIFICATION. ALSO, AMBASSADOR NOW SCHEDULED TO BE IN FARNYWVC ON HIS SPECIAL ILO PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY MISSION. BOTH FACTORS, IN OUR VIEW, NECESSITATE POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT TO A TIME-FRAME CLOSE TO END OF MARCH.

2. ACCORDING TO ALUSNA RECORDS, IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE NEVER SOUGHT CLEARANCE BELOW FORTY-FIVE DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE. TO REQUEST

CLEARANCE ON TWENTY-THREE DAY NOTICE MAKES IT AWKWARD FOR GOY TO RATIONALIZE AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER. EVEN IF THEY BEGIN TO PROCESS REQUEST, EXPECTED DF BEAUCRATIC FOOT-DRAGGING LIKSAT WILL RESULT IN UNWANTED SITUATION OF LIMBO AT TIME CLOSE TO 26 FEB ARRIVAL DATE WHEN CLEAR SIGNALS NEEDED BY ALL
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PARTIES TO CARRY OFF A SUCCESSFUL VISIT AND CLEARLY NOT DESIREABLE

FOR AMBASSADOR TO BE ABSENT DURING VISIT THIS MAGNITUDE
AND IMPORTANCE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND NAVY CONCURRENCE
THAT CINCUSNAVEUR POSTPONE VISIT TO END OF MARCH TIME-FRAME,
ALLOWING EMBASSY TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE CLOSER TO
SIXTY-DAY REQUIREMENT AND ENSURE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE IN
COUNTRY. IF THIS PROPOSAL AGGREEABLE, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST
ACCEPTABLE DATES AND WE WILL PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH CLEARANCE
REQUEST.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND CONCURS SUBSTANCE THIS
MESSAGE.
SWEITZER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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